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2000

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4-26-2000

# 04/26/2000 - Brenda Edgar Announces New Scholarship Program for Women Returning to School

University Marketing and Communications

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### Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "04/26/2000 - Brenda Edgar Announces New Scholarship Program for Women Returning to School" (2000). 2000. 95.  
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00-101  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 26, 2000

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BRENDA EDGAR ANNOUNCES NEW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM  
FOR WOMEN RETURNING TO SCHOOL

CHARLESTON, ILL. – Former Illinois First Lady Brenda Edgar today announced creation of the Brenda Edgar Scholarship for Women through a \$100,000 endowment to Eastern Illinois University.

The scholarship program is designed to provide financial assistance for women who return to college later in life.

“I enrolled at Eastern Illinois University in 1966. My education was ultimately put on hold, though, when I married Jim and started a family,” Mrs. Edgar said. “Over the years I kept at it, taking courses when I could. I finally earned my degree in 1998, more than 30 years after I started, through the Board of Trustees degree program for returning adult students. This scholarship is intended to help women like me, whose

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## BRENDA EDGAR SCHOLARSHIP/2222

education is interrupted due to life circumstances and who return to college later in life.”

The scholarship program is being established with a \$100,000 donation from the Brenda Edgar Good Samaritan Fund, which is administered by Ronald McDonald House Charities. The Fund was created with a \$1 million donation by former Gov. Jim Edgar, using monies left over in his political campaign fund.

Beginning this fall, the Brenda Edgar Scholarship for Women will award one \$4,000 scholarship annually to a student returning to college. To qualify, an applicant must:

- Be a woman over the age of 25 who has been admitted to Eastern Illinois University’s Board of Trustees BA Degree Program;
- Have completed at least 60 credit hours prior to application for the award;
- Possess a grade point average of 2.5 or above at the time of application;
- Have had a significant break in education due to life events;
- Enroll for at least six credit hours of study;
- Have demonstrated the ability to be successful in completing college level work; and
- Be committed to completing a baccalaureate degree.

An applicant’s financial need will also be considered. Recipients will be selected each fall by a panel composed of Eastern faculty and administrators as well as members of the Edgar family.

“For many women, a college education can mean the difference between barely making ends meet and providing a solid future for their family,” Mrs. Edgar said. “I

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BRENDA EDGAR SCHOLARSHIP/3333

know how hard it is to return to school after years of attending to other needs. This scholarship will make that process a little easier financially for women who are committed to completing their education and earning a degree.”

For more information, contact Eastern’s Board of Trustees Degree Program at 217-581-5618.

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